

013400 - Murrieta Creek, CA

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Murrieta Creek Flood Control, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project

Executive Summary:

The Murrieta Creek Flood Control, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project will be constructed along Murrieta Creek in the cities of Murrieta and Temecula in Riverside County. It will improve flood control and storm water retention, enhance water conservation and supply and will provide recreation-related opportunities along the Santa Margarita River and its tributaries in Riverside and San Diego counties. The total project area covers 220 square miles. Construction of Phase I (USGS Stream gauge to 1st Street) will be completed in Oct 2004. Phase II construction (1st Street to Winchester Road) is scheduled to begin construction in Fall 2005. The current schedule calls for completion of the project by May 2009.

Phases:

Phase I USGS Stream Gauge to 1st Street

Phase II 1st Street to Winchester Road

Phase III Winchester Road to Ivy Street, including detention basin

Phase IV Ivy Street to Tenaja Road

12-16-03A Phase I Construction Initiated

10-24-04 Phase I Construction Completed

10-01-05 Phase II Construction Initiated

02-01-06 Phase III Construction Initiated

10-01-08 Phase IV Construction Initiated

05-05-09 Project Physically Completed

Background Information:
Severe flooding in January 1993 caused \$12.2 million in damage in the cities of Murrieta and Temecula and approximately \$90 million in damage at Camp Pendleton Marine Base. Damage in Murrieta and Temecula included downtown flooding and extensive damage to public structures and facilities, infrastructure and private property. Ongoing development in the project area will increase the potential for flood damage to those public and private assets. Flood control features of the project include:

- widening and deepening of Murrieta Creek from the USGS stream gauge in Temecula to Tenaja Road in Murrieta,

- a flood control detention basin occupying approximately 270 acres on the eastern side of Murrieta Creek between Santa Gertrudis Channel to approximately 500 feet upstream of the confluence with Warm Springs Creek and bordering Adam Avenue, Cherry Street and Jefferson Avenue and

- the stream bank protection features between Rancho California Road and First Street. Recreation features include:

- construction of a public park of about 49 acres in size within the easternmost portion of the detention basin. This will include parking lot, children's play area, shade structures, comfort station, barbecues, open space, walks, baseball and soccer fields, security lighting and space for additional activities), pedestrian/bicycle/equestrian bridges spanning Santa Gertrudis Creek and Murrieta Creek,

- bicycle and equestrian/hiking trails along the eastern and western park in the detention basin, with undercrossing structures beneath the First Street, Main Street, Rancho California Road, Winchester Road, Guava Street and Ivy Street bridges. Environmental restoration features include:

- constructing a low flow channels with natural backwaters,

- creating a transitional wetland habitat from freshwater marsh habitat to willow riparian woodland with an upland buffer of mulefat scrub and coastal sage scrub within a 163 acres site, and

- a 13.7 acre sediment catchment area at the confluence of Murrieta and Warm Springs Creeks. The largest known flood in the overall Santa Margarita watershed was in January 1862, and the second greatest was in February 1884. Other major floods occurred in 1916, 1938, 1943, 1969, 1978, 1980, 1991, 1992 and 1993. During the 1978 and 1980 floods, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staged emergency flood fights, and federal funds were used to restore sections of the existing Murrieta Creek channel that were severely eroded. In January and February of 1993, Riverside was hit by severe storms resulting in a Presidential Disaster Proclamation. This large flood resulted in two to six feet of sediment deposition in the Murrieta Creek streambed from Winchester Road south into the "Old Town" area of the city of Temecula. Breakout of floodwaters was caused largely by the magnitude of the event, the vegetation density and

sediment accumulations within the channel that severely reduced flow-carrying capacity. The storm caused more than \$10 million in damages to public facilities along Murrieta Creek. In addition, the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District incurred approximately \$450,000 and the City of Temecula and the Kemper Corporation expended in excess of \$1 million in flood cleanup and facility repair costs. Flooding problems in the Murrieta Creek watershed are related to inadequate capacity of the existing drainage network, particularly in the "Old Town" area of Temecula. The problem manifests itself as frequent overtopping of the Murrieta Creek channel by floodwaters in a number of channel reaches, flood inundation of structures with attendant damages and other water-related problems caused by these events, including emergency costs, automobile damage and traffic disruption. The ecological resources of Murrieta Creek and its associated hinterlands have been identified as a resource of extremely high concern. Several resource agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, have stipulated that Murrieta Creek is one of the last high quality minimally disturbed riverine environments in southern California.

Maps

Frequently Asked Questions:

coming soon!Stakeholders:

Local community

Elected reps

Agencies

Taxpayers

Interest groups

Media News Release:

NR03-23 - ARMY CORPS TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION ON MURRIETA CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT -

11/05/03